THE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI T.R. BAALU): (a) Forest Department of Delhi Government has intimated that as per the Delhi Tree Preservation Act, 1994 if felling of trees for developmental and other works is absolutely essential, the department concerned obtains necessary permission of the Forest and Wildlife Department. While permitting the felling of such trees, the agencies concerned are asked to plant 10 trees for one felled tree. However, if any case of illegal felling of trees is noticed legal action is taken as per rules,

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

Task Force for Enhancing the Forest Cover

654. SHRI PREM CHAND GUPTA:
SHRI SURESH PACHOURI:
Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a Greening India Task Force was set up in 1998 by the Planning Commission, to enhance the Forest Cover to 33 per cent, at a cost of Rs. 48,000 crores; if so, the findings of the task force;

(b) whether the finance for this project was to be covered by Food for Work Scheme and 10 crore people were to be involved;

(c) whether half of the cost will be covered by the Food for Work Scheme and the balance was to be covered through Central and State Schemes; and

(d) if so, what is the progress of this programme?

THE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI T.R. BAALU): (a) to (c) Planning Commission had constituted a Task Force in August 1999 under the Chairmanship of Member, Planning Commission, to provide policy directives, legal support, equitable marketing system to agroforestry for sustainable agriculture, diversified production, thriving of forest based industry besides improving bio-drainage of the land and economy of farmers. Later the scope of the Task Force was broadened in August 2000 by the Planning Commission to cover 'Greening India' for enhancement of

the forest cover of the country. One of the options of financing suggested by the Task Force relate to linking of the afforestation programme with Food for Work Scheme.

(d) The report has not been processed so far.

Linking Tiger Reserves to WWF

655. SHRI NANA DESHMUKH: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have decided to link five tiger reserves and seven wildlife sanctuaries, alongwith forests, in Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra and Chhattisgarh, through the World Wildlife Fund for nature (WWF);

(b) if so, what are the details thereof; and

(c) by when the project is likely to take shape?

THE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI T.R. BAALU): (a) to (c) The Central Government has declared the following Tiger Reserves in the States of Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra and Chhattisgarh under the Centrally Sponsored Scheme of Project Tiger:

(i) Kanha Tiger Reserve, Madhya Pradesh.

(ii) Panna Tiger Reserve, Madhya Pradesh

(iii) Pench Tiger Reserve, Madhya Pradesh

(iv) Bandavgarh Tiger Reserve, Madhya Pradesh

(v) Satpura Tiger Reserve, Madhya Pradesh

(vi) Pench Tiger Reserve, Maharashtra

(vii) Melghat Tiger Reserve, Maharashtra

(viii) Tadoba-Andheri Tiger Reserve, Maharashtra

(ix) Indravati Tiger Reserve, Chhattisgarh.

All these Tiger Reserves form a network of Protected Areas, by and large, inter-linking the improtant tiger habitats. WWF India has conceptualised a project for mustering peoples' support for Wildlife